and to satisfy the travelling public, likely to be put to inconvenience by the proposed schedule.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The timings of 203204 Metre Gauge Mahalaxmi Express have been suitably adjusted to connect 311/312 Broad Gauge Express at Miraj, arriving Bombay at 8.20 A.M. and leaving Bombay at 8.25 P.M.

Request of Tamil Militants to announce ceasefire in Sri Lanka

652. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN *REDDY*:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that TLEF (Tamil Liberation Eelam Front) had requested Government to announce an indefinite ceasefire and to invite the LTTE and other political forces to the negotiation table and initiate the process for a lasting solution to end the ethnic conflict; if so, what is the response of Government to this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Government have seen the appeal by the TLEF. Government have repeatedly invited the LTTE to give up violence, lay down arms and join the democratic political process. Government have announced a unilateral ceasefire on two separate occasions. Despite all these efforts, the LTTE has not responded constructively.

Scholarships awarded by UGC

653. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Number of scholarships for post graduate research students awarded by UGC through national test;

(b) what is the percentage of scholarships given to JNU and DU;

(c) what is the break-up, university-wise, and the total number of universities in the Country; and

(d) what is the amount of scholarship and whether its utility is assessed periodically?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The UGC has instituted a Scheme for the award of Junior/Senior Research Fellowships in Science and Humanities, including Social Sciences for pursuing M. Phil/ Ph.D. programmes. The total number of fellowships under this scheme is 3595, which are allocated among different Universities. One of the conditions for the award of these fellowships is that a candidate should have qualified in the national test conducted by the UGC.

(b) and (c) The total number of fellowships is allocated among 90 universities and 10 institutions deemed to be universities. A statement showing the university-wise allocation of these awards is attached. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 31]. The allocation to Delhi University works out to 3 27 per cent. The UGC has not made any separate allocation of fellowships from this Scheme to JNU. All the fellowships awarded by the JNU are integrated with its maintenance grants provided by the UGC. The total number of fellowships awarded by the JNU is about 370.

(d) From 1-4-1987 the value of these awards is Rs. 1800/- p.m. in the first two years and Rs. 2100/- p.m. in the subsequent two years. The scheme is intended to attract talented students to research programmes. The progress of work of individual research scholars is monitored and reviewed at different levels. The scheme itself is also reviewed by the UGC from time time.

De-recognition of Travel Agencies

654. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that travel agencies dealing in passport matters have been de-recognised on a large scale; if so,